

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 02390 220607Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07
AID-05 /104 W
-----037506 220612Z /10

R 220345Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1602
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 2390

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, ET, SU, UR, YE, YS
SUBJECT: YEMENI MEDIATION BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SUDAN

REFERENCE: SANA 2342 NOTAL

BEGIN SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO SUDANESE AMBASSADOR, HIS
GOVERNMENT HAS NOW AGREED TO A YEMENI MEDIATION EFFORT
BETWEEN KHARTOUM AND ADDIS ABABA TO BE CARRIED OUT HERE IN
SANA ON THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED
SURPRISE AT THIS NEW TURN IN SUDANESE POLICY BUT ASSUMED
THAT SADAN IS EITHER TRYING TO BUY TIME OR ENDEAVORING TO CALL
THE ETHIOPIAN BLUFF. END SUMMARY.

1. SUDANESE AMBASSADOR ABD AL-AMJID BASHIR AL-AHMADI
INFORMED ME JUNE 20, THAT LAST WEEK FOREIGN
MINISTER AL-ASNAJ TOLD HIM THE ETHIOPIANS REFUSED RECENT
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YEMENI OFFER TO MEDIATE BETWEEN ADDIS ABABA AND KHARTOUM
UNLESS SUDAN IMMEDIATELY STOPPED ALL PROPAGANDA ATTACKS
ON ETHIOPIA AND ALSO AGREED TO RESUMPTION OF BILATERAL
DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE ERITREAN QUESTION. AL-AHMADI
STATED THAT AL-ASNAJ BELIEVES THE SOVIETS ARE URGING
THE ETHIOPIANS-SUDANESE CRISIS AS A WAY OF
TURNING ETHIOPIA MORE AND MORE TO THE LEFT AND THUS

BRING IT MORE AND MORE UNDER SOVIET INVLUDENCE.

2. AL-AHAMADI WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE CABLED THIS INFORMATION IMMEDIATELY TO KHARTOUM AND WAS SURPRISED TO BE INFORMED MORNING JUNE 20, THAT KHARTOUM IS AUTHORIZING HIM TO TELL AL-ASNAJ THAT THE TWO ETHIOPIAN CONDITIONS WILL NOT RPT NOT BE OBSTACLES TO THE INITIATION OF TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES UNDER YEMENI AEGIS. AL-AHMADI SAID HE WAS VERY SURPRISED AT THIS REPLY BECAUSE HE HAD EXPECTED A NEGATIVE RESPONSE, AS HE HAD EARLIER TOLD ME (SEE REFTEL). HE CAN ONLY DEDUCE FROM IT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS EITHER TRYING TO UY TIME TO ENABLE ITS NEWLY PURCHASED ARMS TO ARRIVE OR TO CALL THE ETHIOPIAN BLUFF.

2.AL-AHMADI CONTIUED THAT IN ANY EVENT HE HAS INFORMED AL-ASNAJ OF THE NEW SUDANESE POSITION. AL-ASNAJ IN TURN SAID HE WILL PASS THIS INFORMATION TO THE ETHIOPIAN CHARGE HERE AND PROPOSE THAT TALKS BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SUDAN BE INTIATED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN SANA AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL WITH YEMEN ACTING AS THE BO-BETWEEN. ACCORDING TO AL-AHMADI, AL-ASNAJ SAID HE HOPES SUCH TALKS MIGHT START SOMETIME BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF JULY WHEN PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI WILL BE LEAVING FOR PARIS ON HIS STATE VISIT.

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3. AL-AHMADI OPINED THAT AL-ASNAJ MUST HAVE BEEN ABLE TOO CINVINCE THE SUDANESE FOREIGN MINISTR DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO KHARTOUM THAT IT WAS WORTH ONE MORE EFFORT TO TRY TO INITIATE A DIALOGUE WITH MENGISTU REGIME, RATHER THAN LET THE SOVIETS HAVE A FREE HAND IN ETHIOPIA. AL-AHMADI CONCLUDED THAT HE IS IN THE DARK AS TO WHAT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL WANT HIM TO TALK ABOUT AND THAT HE IS GOING TO QUERY KHARTOUM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO GET CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS ON POSITIONS TO BE TAKEN DURING THE AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL TALKS, IF AND WHEN ETHIOPIA AGREES.
SCOTES

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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